

The Comicall Historie of

To raise a present summe ; therefore goe forth,
Trie what my credit can in *Venice* doe,
That shall be rackt even to the uttermost,
To furnish thee to *Belmount* to faire *Portia*.
Goe presently enquire, and so will I,
Where money is, and I no question make
To have it of my trust, or for my sake.

Exeunt.

Enter *Portia* with her waiting-woman *Nerrissa*.

Por. By my troth *Nerrissa*, my little body is a weary of this great world.

Ner. You would be, sweet Madam, if your miseries were in the same aboundance as your good fortunes are : and yet for ought I see, they are as sick that surfeit with too much, as they that starve with nothing ; it is no meane happines therefore to be seated in the meane, superfluitie comes sooner by white haire, but compencencie lives longer.

Por. Good sentences, and well pronounc'd.

Ner. They would be better if well follow'd.

Por. If to do were as easie as to know what were good to do, Chappels had beene Churches, and poore mens cottages Princes Pallaces, it is a good divine that followes his owne instructions, I can easier teach twenty vvhhat were good to be done, then to be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching : the braine may devise lawes for the blood, but a hote temper leapes ore a cold decree, such a hare is madnes the youth, to skip ore the meshes of good counsell the cripple ; but this reasoning is not in the fashion to choose me a husband, o mee the word choose, I may neither choose who I would, nor refuse who I dislike, so is the wil of a lyving daughter curbd by the will of a dead father : is it not harde *Nerrissa*, that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none.

Ner. Your Father was ever vertuous, and holy men at their death have good inspirations, therefore the lottory that he hath devised in these three chests of gold, silver, and leade, vvhreeof who chooses his meaning chooses you, will no doubt never be chosen by any rightly, but one who you shall rightly love : But vvhhat warmth is there in your affection towards any of these Princely suiters that are already come ?

Por.

the Merchant

Por. I pray thee over-name them, and according to my affection.

Ner. First there is the *Neapolitan*.

Por. I, that's a colt indeed, his horse, and he makes it a great parts, that he can shooe him him die his mother plaid false with a

Ner. Then is there the Count

Por. He doth nothing but from will not have me, choose ; he heare feare hee will prove the weeping old, being so full of unmannerly ther be married to a Deathf-head to either of these : God defend

Ner. How say you by the French

Por. God made him, and the truth I know it is a sin to be a horse better than the *Neopolitans* than the Count *Palentine*, he is evsing, he straight fals a capering, dow. If I should marry him, I if he would despise me, I would to madnesse, I shall never requit

Ner. What say you then to of *England* ?

Por. You know I say nothing me, nor I him : he hath neither will come into the Court, and worth in the English : he is a p can converse with a dumbe shov he bought his doublet in *Italy*, he net in *Germanie*, and his behavior

Ner. What thinke you of the

Por. That he hath a neighbor rowed a box of the care of the E pay him againe when he was ab came his Suretie, and seal'd und